

TRAVELLERS' PLOTS



■ Back to earth – police community support officers look on as a digger is used to clear and flatten an illegal traveller plot



■ On duty – patrolling officers



■ Moving on? Travellers were putting bin bags of stuff outside their dwellings

Woman's home gets reprieve

TEMPERS flared briefly when a woman living on a seventh plot due for demolition and whose husband is in hospital was ordered to empty her mobile home and leave.

Basildon Council believed Kathleen Rooney's pitch was empty despite the furnished mobile home, caravan and outbuildings on the hard-standing.

Bailiffs walked on to the pitch telling her and her family to get out within two hours, so bulldozers could move in.

Travellers on the site branded it a disgrace, saying her husband John was recovering from a heart attack and two strokes.

A clearly upset Mrs Rooney said while bringing bags of belongings out of the mobile home: "They have given us just two hours. We have got nowhere to go."

A man, in his thirties, who said he was Mr Rooney's son, added: "He has had a heart attack and this is going to put him back when he finds out."

"The council does not care about

travellers. We have been treated unjustly. It's a disgrace, and we will end up on the streets."

However, after a review of the situation, the family was allowed to stay.

Council spokesman Paul Illett said: "In light of information coming forward, the plot will not be cleared."

"It will be part of the next phase, when all the occupied plots will be cleared."

He said it was previously believed the site was empty, and it must have been reoccupied.